

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

## In Re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant(s) : Rudy FEDERICI

International Application No. : PCT/CH00/00451

Filed : August 24, 2000

National Application No. : To be Assigned

For : HANDLING DEVICE FOR PREPARING  
A WAFER STACK

Attorney Docket : 31509-178300

) PRELIMINARY  
) AMENDMENT

) Customer No. 26694



February 27, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend this application as follows, it being noted that an appendix showing the marked up claims is attached:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims have been amended to read as follows:

3. (Amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that  
grippers (44, 60) of the gripping device (43) are arranged on a common carrier (61) which can be  
moved parallel to the storage device (42) on a guide element (62).